

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04 NIC-01 SY-07 OPR-02 SIL-01 LAB-06

RSR-01 EB-11 ACDA-19 GAC-01 OMB-01 /146 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8918

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MATRINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PLAB, F

SUBJ: STUDENTS STAGE ANOTHER MASS DEMONSTRATION

REF: PARIS 08874

1. NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST " DEBRE LAW", WHICH LIMITED DRAFT DEFERMENTS (REFTEL), AND AGAINST REVISION OF UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM TOOK PLACE EVENING APRIL 2 IN FORM OF MARCHES ALONG POLICE- APPROVED ROUTES. CONSISTING MOSTLY OF HIGH SCHOOL AND SOME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, MARCHERS ALSO INCLUDED CONTINGENTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS (CGT, CFDT, AND FEN), PARENT- TEACHER, POLITICAL (LEFT) AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

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2. ORGANIZERS CLAIMED 200,000 PARTICIPANTS; POLICE ESTIMATED 40,000; PRESS PLACE FIGURE AT 125,000. PLACARDS PREDICTED A " HOT SPRING", CONDEMNED THE " DEBRE LAW" (REFTEL), AND PROCLAIMED SOLIDARITY WITH RENAULT WORKERS. THOUGH PRESENT IN FORCE, POLICE REMAINED INACTIVE DURING ACTUAL MARCH, STUDENT " MARSHALLS" DOING A CAPABLE JOB OF MAINTAINING ORDER. ONLY INCIDENT OCCURRED AT END OF MARCH WHEN SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS REFUSED TO DISPERSE, THREW STONES, OVERTURNPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATTAKOS FLEW TINOS MARCH 30 IN APPARENTLY UNSUCCESSFUL GOVERNMENT EFFORT HAVE LETTER WITHDRAWN BEFORE IT BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, AS IT DID MARCH 31. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT EITHER GOG OR CHURCH BUREAUCRACY WHICH UNDER DIRECT CONTROL ARCHBISHOP ENCOURAGED RESIGNATION, WHICH APPEARS TO SPRING FROM ARCHBISHOP' S OWN DECISION AND REFLECTS HIS OWN PERSONALITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MAKE- UP.

4. IN LETTER RESIGNATION RELEASED APRIL 3 IERONYMOS SAID HE FELT PHYSICALLY TIRED AND " I AM NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO OFFER EVEN A FRACTION OF WHAT MY OFFICE DEMANDS." COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT PHYSICAL HEALTH PER SE IS REASON FOR RESIGNATION. ARCHBISHOP' S ENERGY HAS CERTAINLY FLAGGED RECENT MONTHS AND RECOVERY FRO MILD HEART ATTACK SUFFERED LAST DECEMBER IN WAKE STORMY MEETINGS OF HEIRARCHY HAS BEEN OFFICIAL REASON FOR HIS LIGHT SCHEDULE. THER IS SOME UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING ARCHBISHOP' S MENTAL HEALTH IN VIEW OF GUARDED ATTITUDE OF FEW CHURCH OFFICIALS CLOSE TO IERONYMOS AND BECAUSE OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS EMOTIONAL REACTION AGAINST CRITICAL BISHOPS, WHOM HE CONSIDERS HIS INTELLECTUAL INFERIORS, HAS BEEN INTENSE. SINCE LAST FALL HE HAS APPEARED TO RETREAT INTO SPIRITUALISM, WHICH SOME CALL SIMPLY MOODINESS, A CONDITION WHICH HAS RE-ENFORCED HIS AIR OF ALOFFNESS AND AUTOCRACY WHICH IS WHAT BISHOPS MAY RESENT AND WHICH APPARENTLY HAS REDUCED HIS CAPABILITY TO COUNTER HIS CRITICS EFFECTIVELY.

5. GREEK PRESS REMINDED READERS THAT " REASONS OF HEALTH" ARE ONLY VALID GROUNDS FOR ARCHBISHOP VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERING OFFICE AND THEN WENT ON TO ENUMERATE SEVERAL OTHER REASONS POSSIBLY BEHIND RESIGNATION, INCLUDING HIS CONFLICT WITH ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND HIS SEVERAL LEGAL BATTLES, SOME STILL PENDING, WITH DISGRUNTLED BISHOPS AND LAYMEN. ONE FURTHER AND RECENT IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT WAS IERONYMOS' UNILATERAL ACTION IN SUPPORT OF MAKARIOS IN LATTER ' S CONFLICT WITH THREE CYPRIOT BISHOPS. MANY GREEK BISHOPS WANTED CHURCH TO AVOID A DIRECT STAND ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE HERE, BOTH ECCLESIASTICALLY

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AND POLITICALLY. FURTHER INDICATION THAT IERONYMOS HAD ONCE MORE CLIMBED OUT ON LIMB WITHOUT CONSULTING OTHER BISHOPS WAS ADDRESS BY BISHOP LEONIDAS OF THESSALONIKI ON APRIL 1 TO CYPRIOT STUDENTS CELEBRATING EOKA ANNIVERSARY IN NORTHERN GREECE. AS REPORTED VRADYNI APRIL 2, THE BISHOP, WHO IS CONSIDERED LEADING PRO- JUNTA PRELATE AND IS MEMBER OF HOLY SYNOD, ANNOUNCED HE HAD SUPPORTED THREE BISHOPS, HAD URGED MAKARIOS TO GET OUT OF POLITICS IN 1971 AFTER HE NARROWLY ESCAPED POLITICAL ASSASSINATION, AND RESENTED IERONYMOS' PUBLIC DECLARATION ON BEHALF MAKARIOS.

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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